

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7211

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 2106

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, GB, US

SUBJ: ANGOLA: HOLDING THE LINE

REF: STATE 299944

1. MET WITH PRESIDENT MORNING DECEMBER 20 AND READ HIM FULL TEXT OF SECRETARY'S MESSAGE CONTAINED REFTEL. PRESIDENT INDICATED TOTAL AGREEMENT WITH VIEWS EXPRESSED THEREIN, AND ASKED ME CONVEY HIS ASSURANCE TO SECRETARY THAT HE AND GOG WILL CONTINUE TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO HOLD LINE ON ANGOLA IN COMING WEEKS.

2. BONGO WELCOMED PROSPECT OF VISIT NEXT WEEK BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFELLE. HE HAS NO PLANS FOR TRAVEL OUTSIDE GABON DURING HOLIDAY SEASON AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR MEETING ANYTIME DURING THIS PERIOD.

3. COMMENT: BELIEVE VISIT AT THIS TIME BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED BY BONGO, WHO IS PROVING CONSISTENTLY STRONG SUPPORTER ON ANGOLAN ISSUE. TRUST THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY WILL BE BEARER OF FURTHER NEWS ABOUT DOD TEAM OR OTHER STEPS BY USG TO DELIVER ON PROMISED ARMS AID TO GABON, AS PRESIDENT WILL CERTAINLY EXPECT SUCH NEWS AS ONE COMPONENT OF VISIT.

4. IN CONNECTION WITH PROJECTED TRIP, PLEASE ADVISE

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URGENTLY HOW MUCH I CAN TELL FRENCH AMBASSADOR HERE, WHO

HAS BEEN RELATIVELY FORTHCOMING IN KEEPING US POSTED ON TRAVELS OF ELYSEE ADVISER JOURNIAC. AS RECOMMENDED LIBREVILLE 2011 AND 2034, BELIEVE FRANK DIALOGUE WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR DELAUNAY WOULD BE OF GREAT BENEFIT TO US, AS HE IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO LEARN OF OUR ACTIVITIES IN ANY EVENT THROUGH NETWORK OF FRENCH ADVISERS. PRESIDENT BONGO BELIEVES WE ARE IN CLOSE CONSULTATION IN PARIS OR WASHINGTON (HE READ ME LETTER JUST RECEIVED FROM GISCARD D'ESTAING WITH LANGUAGE ALMOST IDENTICAL TO SECRETARY'S MESSAGE REFTEL), AND PROBABLY ASSUMES SIMILAR CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERWAY IN LIBREVILLE. STEIGMAN

SECRET

NNN

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